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SUBJECT: CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE: CAMPAIGN UPDATE, 7 JULY

Sassou's Juggernaut Rolls Along

11. (SBU) President Sassou-Nguesso is dominating the campaign. In Brazzaville, his commercials flood television and the radio. Pro-Sassou ral plumage lumber through town, music blaring from attached speakers and pro-Sassou emcees preaching the word. Opposition complaints that he is t Saint-Eudes: "Today: A beer and a 2000 Franc Note. And Tomorrow?" Opposition signs and banners can be found around town, but opposition T-shi

12. (SBU) Sassou has been touring the country continuously since the start of campaigning, traveling with his wife and entourage in planes, hel Brazzaville" newspaper, the president tells audiences of his vision of the "Road to the Future," the central theme of his campaign. "If electe

13. (SBU) For most of the rest of the week, the president will concentrate his efforts in the south from his second campaign headquarters in Dc

Sassou Stoned?

14. (SBU) A French TV5 press report that President Sassou was met by a rock-throwing crowd in the Pool department village of Mbe on Saturday 4

Opposition Calls for Peace Dialogue

15. (SBU) The candidates of the Front of the Parties of the Opposition (FPOC, known by most as the Opposition Front and by the government as "t concerns-and evidence-that the elections will not be free and fair and thus make the case that they should thus be postponed. Two opposition c 6 called for the elections to be postponed in a meeting with Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization Raymond Mboulou.

16. (SBU) Comment: The Opposition Front seems more confused than ever. While consistent in highlighting the ways the vote looks to be rigged can be fixed, the Opposition seems to be adjusting its statements on an almost daily basis. From speaking consistently of an eleventh hour bc decisiveness. We will attend a Front rally later today to get the latest installment.

Dueling Rallies

17. (SBU) The three Opposition Front candidates-Mathias Dzon, E Clement Mierassa and Guy-Roman Kinfoussia-later today will hold a joint rally a west of the Embassy. Opposition hopes for a large turnout at the stadium rally could be frustrated by a pro-Sassou rally featuring at least f

Getting Out of Dodge

18. (SBU) We have been receiving numerous reports in recent days of Congolese trying to move to safer areas during the elections period out of the Dolisie area of southern Congo, as well as opposition leader Dzon's home area in Plateau department. A train headed from Brazzaville to Pc passengers that two infants suffocated. FSN rumors indicated that all flights from Brazzaville to Pointe Noire had been cancelled, but when RS

Government Warns Opposition...and Diplomats

19. (SBU) As the elections approach, the government has stepped up warnings to the opposition against violence and civil disobedience. On July

110. (SBU) On July 7, Foreign Minister Basile Ikouebe, along with Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization Mboulou, convoked population into thinking they were supported by the international community. The government, however, would contain any outbreak of violence a

111. (SBU) Comment: As the campaign enters its last days, the government appears to be getting nervous about how it is beingviewed internationat will vote for Sassou. The movement of people away from their home areas can affect voter turnout-if they are not at home, people cannot be "er EASTHAM